BALTIC STATES PLAN UNIFIED AIRSPACE. The Estonian General Staff announced on 25 January that senior air force officers from the Baltic Republics have proposed a single airspace monitoring system. Interfax reports that the system would combine military and civilian radar sites and would be part of a future unified air defense system. Such a system was approved in principle by Baltic military leaders in November. - Doug Clarke, OMRI, Inc.

FURTHER TALKS ON BALTIC EU ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP. Lithuanian Deputy Foreign Minister Albinas Januskas, heading the Lithuanian delegation to the first round of talks on associate membership in the European Union, described the 19 January meeting as "successful,". The two sides exchanged opinions on the draft association agreement proposed by the European Commission. An Estonian delegation held similar talks on 20 January. The date of possible full membership in the EU--was not discussed. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.

LITHUANIA'S RULING PARTY EXPELS PARLIAMENT DEPUTY. The Council of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party on 21 January expelled parliament deputy Kestutis Gaska for not complying with party rules. Gaska joined the LDLP in August 1992. He defeated eight other candidates in the single mandate Lazdijai electoral district several months later. In spring 1994 he formally left the LDLP faction, protesting the party's failure to fulfill its pre-election promises. As a member of the parliament's National Security Committee, he frequently criticized the activities of the Defense Ministry. --Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.

HEAD OF LITHUANIA'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH DIES. The leader of Lithuania's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bishop Jonas Kalvanas died on 15 January at the age of 80. He was buried on 18 January in the town of Taurage. -- Saulius Girnius, OMRI, Inc.

The Lithuanian Parliament has gone back on an earlier promise to return to the Catholic Church real estate which was confiscated by Soviet authorities during the occupation. President Algirdas Brazauskas has signed the bill into law.